



46w

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Shinsuke SUHARA et al.

Group Art Unit: 3729

Application No.: 10/025,802

Examiner: R. CHANG

Filed: December 26, 2001

Docket No.: 111526

For: ELECTRIC-OMPONENT MOUNTING SYSTEM AND METHOD

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the December 14, 2004 Restriction Requirement, Applicants provisionally elect Group I, claims 1-12, with traverse.

The Office Action alleges, as support for the Restriction Requirement, that "the apparatus as claimed can be used to practice another and materially different process such as one that controls a speed of relative movement of the mounting heads instead of controlling the speed of the relative movement of different patterns." This statement implies that the method claim recites "controlling the speed of the relative movement of different patterns." However, this is incorrect. The method claims actually recite controlling the speed of relative movement of the component holding device and the board supporting device (claim 13), or controlling a speed of a turning of movement of the component-holding members (claim 14). Therefore, the Office Action's reasoning is flawed, and does not set forth proper basis for restriction.

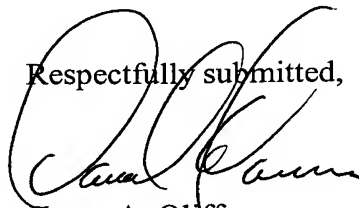
It is also respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims 1-14 is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group of claims would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

Applicants attach, for the convenience of the Examiner, an annotated copy of claims 1-12 including reference numerals to exemplary elements shown in the figures of this application. The annotated claims are submitted only in an effort to aid the Examiner in mapping the features recited in the claims to exemplary depictions of the feature in the figures. This submission, in no way, should be construed to amend claims 1-12 as originally

filed. Further, the presentation of exemplary element reference numerals for the aid of the Examiner does not limit the scope of the features recited in the claims to only the exemplary elements depicted.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff

Registration No. 27,075

Daniel A. Tanner, III

Registration No. 54,734

JAO:DAT/jb

Attachment:

Annotated Copy of Claims 1-12

Date: January 14, 2005

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

**DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE
AUTHORIZATION**

Please grant any extension
necessary for entry;

Charge any fee due to our
Deposit Account No. 15-0461